



## FRANK JULIUS ADLER

October 27, 1923 - March 30, 2018

Frank Julius Adler, 94, Administrative Director Emeritus of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah, died Friday, March 30, 2018 at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Services will be held on Monday, April 2, 2018 at The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah, starting with a musical prelude at 11:00 am. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Frank J. Adler Leadership Endowment Fund of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah, 12320 Nall Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66209, or to the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, 5801 W. 115th Street, Overland Park, KS 66211.

He was born as Franz Julius Schwarzadler in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, the city in which his father's family was the oldest one—non-Jewish as well as Jewish—in length of fully documented local residence: 14 successive generations, 1487–1939. He was a knowledgeable, observant fourth-generation Reform Jew. His high school education was begun at Frankfurt's historic "Philanthropin" Reformrealgymnasium and completed in England after emigration following the "Kristallnacht" pogrom.

He came to the United States (Chicago) at age 16 and immediately began full-time clerical employment. He received his college education in nine years of night classes before and following wartime U.S. Army service in New Guinea and the Philippines, graduating from the University of Chicago's College of Liberal Arts in 1952. He served as administrator of Temple Isaiah Israel (now K.A.M. Isaiah Israel), Chicago, for seven years (1946-1953), as well as its non-ordained rabbinical assistant for six of those years.

Mr. Adler came to Kansas City in 1953 to become the administrative director of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah for the next thirty years. He then served B'nai Jehudah for an additional eight years as director of endowment development, retiring in 1991. Thereafter, for four more years, he was a Planned Giving consultant to other charities.

He was among the first of his profession to be certified as a Fellow in Temple Administration. He was the President of the National Association of Temple Administrators in 1963-65 and of the Mid-America Planned Giving Council in 1989-1991. He served on the Board of Directors of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education and on its speakers' bureau. He was a member of the national Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of

the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now Union for Reform Judaism) for four years and served as administrative consultant to other Midwest congregations for over two decades. He served as well on the board of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau of Greater Kansas City. He was a founding member of the National Association of Church Business Administrators' Heart of America Chapter in 1971. He was an honorary member of B'nai Jehudah's Sisterhood, as well as a member of the B'nai Jehudah Brotherhood, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the Leo Baeck Institute, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, and the Mainstream Coalition.

His centennial history volume of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah, Roots in a Moving Stream (1972), was praised nationwide as a model of excellence. He contributed numerous book reviews and articles on Jewish history and genealogy to The Kansas City Star, the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle, and to national and international journals.

The "Frank J. Adler Grove" of 1,000 trees in Israel's Bicentennial National Forest near Jerusalem was dedicated by The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah in 1978. He received the State of Israel's "City of Peace Award" in 1984. B'nai Jehudah's current administrative offices in Overland Park were designated as "The Frank J. Adler Administrative Suite."

He was preceded in death by Lois Adler, his wife of 56 years. He is survived by his wife Elisabeth Adler; sons Daniel Adler (wife Jeanne), Leawood, and Dr. Paul Adler (wife Heidi), East Longmeadow, Mass; grandchildren Michelle Wexler (husband David), David Adler (wife Allison), Jonathan Adler and Katherine Adler, as well as great-grandchildren Marissa Ann McLain and Jack Frank Adler.



# Comments

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“ Dear Adler Family -- I have just learned of the death of my distant cousin Frank and wanted to express my condolences. Although we had not corresponded much recently, Frank and Lois (and Dora), were fondly thought of by my late father and mother, Erwin and Gisela Weil. They often spoke of (and to) Frank and had great admiration for all he accomplished. I am sorry for your loss and wish you all peace and comfort in the days ahead. His life was a testament to hard work and passion for one's most deeply held beliefs, and we can all learn from his example.

In sympathy,  
Martita (Weil) Fleming  
Washington, DC



**Martita Fleming** - April 24, 2018 at 11:02 PM

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“ Madeline Silver lit a candle in memory of FRANK JULIUS ADLER



**Madeline Silver** - April 23, 2018 at 01:40 AM



“ Dear Elizabeth and Family, My heart is with you as you mourn the passing of your loving father, husband and grandfather. I had the chance to work with Frank while he resided at The Atriums and I fondly remember his care, concern, and intelligence as he contributed to our weekly Shabbat Services. We were so fortunate to have him and his dedication to Atrium residents.

**Madeline Silver** - April 23, 2018 at 01:45 AM

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“ Back in 1979, Frank was the first person I ever corresponded with on genealogy who was related to me. His joy and enthusiasm about family history was so contagious as together we explored our family's history. His research was thorough and academic and he set a standard that I hope to achieve. Everything I admire in him, I am sure was displayed in all aspects of his life. He will be so missed.

**Evy Buzzell** - April 21, 2018 at 05:42 PM

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“ Frank generously mentored those of us who grew up in B'nai Jehudah, keeping an eye for potential leaders among the youth group and encouraging everyone who expressed an interest in Jewish institutions and careers--rabbinic or otherwise--in Jewish communal work. He never forgot one's name, history, and interests; always taking time to visit and inquire about one's progress through life. In many respects, Frank's service as Temple Administrator was every bit as rabbinic as its ordained leaders, and his impact on the lives of the Temple's youth was just as lasting. Jeffrey Abt, Huntington Woods, Michigan.

**Jeffrey Abt** - April 11, 2018 at 11:07 PM

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“ Frank gave an almost 3 hour interview back in 1999 as part of a project to document the stories of Holocaust survivors in Kansas City. I have posted the audio for anyone interested: <https://soundcloud.com/user-648062548-198390140/sets/frank-julius-adler-holocaust>

**David Adler** - April 10, 2018 at 03:14 PM

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“ During my many long ago years as a Board Member of the Temple, Frank was not just an Administrator: he was a Leader. When Board disputes flared over a Fair Share Dues Plan: Frank quietly led us to an amiable decision. I respected him as a fine human being. May he rest in peace. Alan and Vicki Bronfman, Boca Raton, Florida



**Alan Bronfman** - April 07, 2018 at 07:48 PM

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“ Dear Elisabeth and family:

I will never forget the times I often spent with Frank just talking about subjects that went way over my head. But within those discussions I learned so much about life, and his wisdom will always be a gift that I will cherish. We had many wonderful times together, and I hope everyone knows that he was a gift to anyone that ever met him. Elisabeth, our hearts are with you.

Sincerely,

Carrie Taylor, Activities at the Atriums  
Wendy Morgan, Activities at the Atriums

**Carrie Taylor** - April 04, 2018 at 09:05 AM

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“ Our deepest condolences to the Adler family.  
Rob and Susan Pittell

**Rob Pittell** - April 02, 2018 at 12:31 PM

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“ A wonderful man...my mother was so appreciative having worked with him on some projects. Then we luckily inherited FRANK...A GENTLE BRILLIANT GENTLEMAN

I so enjoyed and learned from on of his high holy day lectures

How fortunate so many were to know him. Barnett and Shirley

**helzberg** - April 01, 2018 at 09:03 PM

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“ I met Frank in 1981 when I was hired to be the Librarian at The Temple. I do not think I ever met a more interesting person. He advised me numerous times on which books to keep as I put the Library in order. He often stopped by when I was at work to just visit.

In the late 90's and early 2000's when Peter was trying to collect Holocaust reparations from Austria, Frank translated numerous documents from German to English and helped him fill out the paper work. Peter would contact Frank, and he would invite him to his home and always tell him, "Bring Bev with you." We had many great visits with Frank and Lois.

We have lost a wonderful person. I hope the family will be sustained by good memories.

Bev Newman

Bev Newman - April 01, 2018 at 05:33 PM

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“ We have lost a dedicated, brilliant educator, administrator, and a terrifically nice human being who cared greatly for others. I have such happy memories of the many years we worked together. May his memory ever be for blessing.

Don Kasle — Mission Viejo, CA

Don Kasle - March 31, 2018 at 05:45 PM

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“ Susie and I are very sad to hear about Frank, as he and Lois were our extended family in KC. Wish we could be with you, but you know our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Steve

Steve Lang - March 31, 2018 at 11:13 AM

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“ I just read Frank's obituary in the Kansas City Star. I am sorry I did not know him, his story is amazing! What a dedicated man to his community and religion. Next time I go to Israel I will definitely go to the "Frank J. Adler Grove". I was very moved by his story!

Katrina Vaught - March 31, 2018 at 09:54 AM

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“ Christine R. W. Jennings lit a candle in memory of FRANK JULIUS ADLER



**Christine R. W. Jennings** - March 31, 2018 at 09:39 AM



“ So enjoyed getting to know Mr. Adler when I attended Temple B'nai Jehudah several years ago. He was a very interesting man to listen to. I especially enjoyed and appreciated his book which was very hard to come by, "Roots in a Moving Stream" about the history of the congregation B'nai Jehudah. Rest in peace, Frank. You lived a wonderful and full life. My sympathy to your family and friends at your loss to us all. I am hoping to see you again someday on the other side of this life.

**Christine R. W. Jennings** - March 31, 2018 at 09:43 AM

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“ Frank was the Temple administrator as I was growing up and while I attended Sunday school with his son (and long-time friend), Danny. I remember feeling like Frank was always a familiar face and someone who I knew I could count on if I needed him not only during that time, but also during youth group days when B'nai Jehudah was home away from home.

One of my favorite memories was when he and his wife Lois stopped in Boise on a driving vacation and we had a lovely dinner together. Frank was such an interesting person, and so personable. I could always learn something new from him.

I know he will be missed and my brother Mark, my mother Rose as well as my thoughts go out to Danny, Paul and the rest of the family.

Debbie Klugman

**Debbie Klugman** - March 30, 2018 at 05:32 PM

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“ Dan, Jeannie, and family, sending our condolences on your loss.

**Mark Edelman and karin lichterman** - March 30, 2018 at 04:48 PM

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“ Frank was one of the nicest people I have ever met. He was kind, considerate, friendly, and always helpful when I needed advice on any matter. He came to my aid more than once, and I loved him dearly for it. What an exceptional person he was! I shall miss him.

Sue Stonefield

**Sue Stonefield** - March 30, 2018 at 02:57 PM